These data, of course, appeared after the book was complete. In this regard, it is gratifying to see that Nordin has also come round to the view that estrogen deficit is important in the causation of postmenopausal osteoporosis and that estrogens are valuable in its prophylaxis and therapy. The role of estrogen in inhibiting collagen breakdown probably explains these results; it is not included in this volume. An important reference on the frequency of hip fractures by Cave and Nordin, referred to several times, turned out to be "privately printed" and therefore not readily available.

As noted, most omissions relate to the timing of the publication. One cannot fault the referencing of a volume with approximately 2,400 well-chosen references. It is an excellent source book for active workers in this field. I know of no comparable reference. It must, of course, be supplemented by subsequent reports which, I am sure, will be included in the next edition.

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INTERPRETATION OF BIOCHEMICAL MULTITEST PROFILES—An Analysis of 100 Important Conditions—Paul L. Wolf, MD, Professor of Pathology, Division of Clinical Pathology, University of California, San Diego, School of Medicine, La Jolla. Masson Publishing USA, Inc., 14 East 60th St., New York City (10022), 1977. 296 pages, price not listed.

Dr. Wolf is one of the most enthusiastic and experienced interpreters of laboratory results. His correlations have been popular pedagogical exercises attractive to medical students and physicians, alike. In this volume he has gathered 104 examples of SMA 12/60 and SMA 6/60 panels that display abnormalities readily correlated with a diagnosis and, at times, abnormalities that provide the important clues to a diagnosis. He relates case histories and provides pertinent references. The type is clear and the panels neatly reproduced.

It is unfortunate that the presentation is marred by careless writing, inattention to good organization and some poorly selected references. While the discussions would be acceptable as informal bedside chats, in the reading thereof direction and succinctness are lost. In explaining mechanisms that account for abnormal levels of constituents in serum, Dr. Wolf lapses into imprecision, teleology and circuitous explanation. A few examples include the analysis of the panel for a patient (number 26) with decreased potassium levels and bulky stools; a patient (38) with elevated cholesterol values and edema; and a patient (62) with increased alkaline phosphatase values, among others. The case of a febrile patient for whom the use of an anticoagulant in drawing the blood is the cause of the abnormal tracing is listed as a "febrile patient with decreased calcium and alkaline phosphatase" rather than as an example of artifactual results.

The information contained in the tracings is useful and should be helpful to clinicians who have limited experience with reading and interpreting panels. For medical students and those who wish to learn clinical physiological relationships, the text is not appropriate. With a reorganized and clearer text the volume would be valuable, indeed.

A set of slides is available for each portion of the book: panels, histories and interpretations. The slides of panels and histories would be good teaching aids for group discussion.

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CLINICAL RADIOBIOLOGY—W. Duncan, FRCPE, FRCR, Professor of Radiotherapy, University of Edinburgh; Honorary Consultant Radiotherapist, Royal Infirmary and Western General Hospital, Edinburgh; and A. H. W. Nias, MA, DM(Oxford), DMRT, Consultant Medical Radiation Biologist, Glasgow Institute of Radiotherapeutics and Oncology, Belvidere Hospital, Glasgow; Honorary Clinical Lecturer, University of Glasgow. Churchill Livingstone—Medical Division, Longman Inc., 19 West 44th St., New York City (10036), 1977. 226 pages, $22.50.

This well-written text with excellent illustrations discusses the field of radiobiology in great detail. Chapters included discuss cell survival curves, early effects of radiotherapy on normal tissues, acute radiation syndromes, late genetic and somatic effects of radiation therapy and upcoming advances in radiotherapy.

One particular chapter discusses the clinical applications of radiobiology. This chapter describes the different effects of varying dose fractionation schedules on tumors and normal tissue. This is an important chapter because clinical research protocols in the United States call for varying dose fractionation schemes.

Another important chapter deals with upcoming developments in radiotherapy and describes the high linear energy transfer (LET) types of radiation which are now being used in clinical trials. This chapter describes the possible clinical benefit that may be gained by combining hyperthermia with radiotherapy. Also discussed is the use of chemotherapy—for example, alkylating agents, and radiosensitizing agents in conjunction with radiotherapy.

Clinical Radiobiology discusses the important principles of radiobiology as applied to radiation oncology. The text describes the field of radiobiology in detail. Furthermore, several new considerations in radiobiology (such as high LET radiation and combined chemotherapy and radiotherapy) are reviewed more extensively than in other similar texts. This book is recommended for radiotherapists, whether in practice or research, and for therapeutic radiology residents.

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RECENT ADVANCES IN OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY—Number Twelve—Edited by Sir John Stallworthy, MA, Hon DSc (Leeds & Otago), FRCS, FRCOG, Hon FRCSI, Hon FCOG(SA), Hon FACS, Hon FACOG, Emeritus Nuffield Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Oxford; Consultant Obstetric Surgeon, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney; Honorary Associate, National Maternity Hospital, Dublin; and Gordon Bourne, FRCS, FRCOG, Consultant in Charge, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London; Consultant Gynaecologist, Royal Masonic Hospital, London. Churchill Livingstone—Medical Division of Longman Group Limited, Longman Inc., 19 West 44th Street, New York, NY (10036), 1977. 368 pages, $27.50.

Recent Advances in Obstetrics and Gynaecology is an excellent review of 13 selected topics and should be of great interest to both obstetricians-gynecologists and to other practitioners of reproductive medicine. The chapters cover four areas of reproductive physiology (neuroendocrinology, intrauterine growth retardation, prostaglandins and placental function), five gynecologic topics (pediatric gynecology, colposcopy, laparoscopy, vulvar carcinoma and tubal reconstructive surgery) and four obstetric topics (ultrasound, conduction anesthesia, shock and coagulative disorders). While each subject is carefully reviewed, the chapter on ultrasound is especially complete and timely.

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